Comprehensive TV code for content regulation

1156. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian television is set to get a comprehensive code for content regulation and a new content code has been prepared by Government about broadcasters what they can air at what time and what they can't;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has already discussed the code with television industry;

(c) whether the code marks the first major step in introducing systems in an industry which frequently debates moral policing by Government but triggers equally frequent discussions on inappropriate or offensive content;

(d) if so, what was the outcome of the discussion held; and

(e) by when this code is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) Provisions for regulating content of Indian TV already exist under Rules 6 and 7 of the Cable TV Rules, 1994 and are implemented in cases of complaints. To make the code more comprehensive and specific, a Committee has been constituted for reviewing Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder and the guidelines for certification of films prescribed under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and for drafting a new content code. A draft of the proposed Code has also been posted on the website of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting *www.mib.nic.in*. The Committee comprises the representatives of broadcasting organisations apart from civil society and consumer groups and the Code has been discussed with them. The responses have been both for and against the Code. The Committee has had six meetings so far. The next meeting has not been scheduled.

Guidelines for news channels

1157. SHRI P.R. RANJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is considering separate list of guidelines for news channels working in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) A Committee has been constituted for reviewing Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder and the guidelines for certification of films prescribed under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and drafting a new content code. A draft of the proposed Code, including a proposed chapter on guidelines for news channels, has also been posted on the website of the Ministry